

# THE SUN

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## Relief fund set up for Inland Empire fire victims

### Donors

The following organizations have made or pledged donations to the Fire Victims Relief Fund:

- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians: \$100,000
- Altura Credit Union (Riverside County): \$20,000
- American Collective Counseling Services: \$20,000
- Arrowhead Credit Union: \$20,000
- City of Riverside: \$20,000
- City of San Bernardino: \$20,000
- Riverside County: \$20,000
- Stater Bros. Markets: \$20,000
- Matich Corporation: \$10,000
- SE Corporation: \$5,000
- JJC Project Management: \$4,000
- Supervisor Dennis Hansberger has said San Bernardino County will make a donation similar to Riverside County's, according to San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris.

**By Michael Sorba**  
Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — A special Fire Victims Relief Fund has been established in the Inland Empire that will aid fire victims in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The announcement was made Friday during a news conference outside San Bernardino City Hall.

The Community Foundation of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties will be in charge of distributing the money.

"I want to assure you all the funds will go to fire victims of our two counties," said Jim Erickson, foundation president and CEO. "There will be no administrative fees."

The foundation has set up a special ad-hoc committee composed of local charity leaders which will decide how the fund will be dispensed, Erickson said.

The committee is expected to meet next week.

"There's a sense of urgency ..." said Michael Tracey, vice president of development for the foundation. "The decision will come quickly but we're also going to have to raise funds quickly."

The foundation will be accepting donations from anyone interested in contributing.

For donation information, call (951) 684-4194.

Help in the form of manpower arrived Thursday night to San Bernardino County.

Six firefighters from Gulfport, Miss., traveled to the area to assist in damage assessment and other duties regarding the fires that are ravaging the San Bernardino Mountains.

The firefighters have experience in disaster situations — they helped in search-and-rescue missions after Hurricane Katrina tore through Gulfport in 2005.

Gulfport officials sent the firefighters in order to return a favor to San Bernardino County.

After Katrina, the county sent

supplies and \$41,642 in gift cards to help Gulfport in its relief effort.

The firefighters are working with local fire officials to compile maps that will show evacuees the status of their homes, said county spokesman David Wert.

On Friday, Gulfport Deputy Fire Chief Billy Bragg was stationed at the county's Emergency Operations Center in Rialto to aid in management and strategies for the emergency.

"A lot of what we did in Katrina worked, and a lot didn't work," Bragg said. "I hope we can expand on the things that worked here, so we don't have to go through a slow relief process."

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